

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**San Bernardino County Assessor Bill Postmus Reminds  
Taxpayers Of Important Deadline For Property  
Tax Exemptions**

*February 15 Date For Property Tax Exemption Requests Approaching,  
Taxpayers Could Save Hundreds Of Dollars*

SAN BERNARDINO - San Bernardino County Assessor Bill Postmus today reminded taxpayers that Friday, February 15 is the deadline for requesting the full benefit of property tax exemptions. Property tax exemptions that may be granted include requests for a Homeowners Exemption, a Disabled Veterans Exemption, and Institutional (non-profit organization) Exemption.

Assessor Postmus noted that the following criteria must be met for a property tax exemption consideration:

**On a request for a Homeowners Exemption:**

- If you own a home and occupy it as your principal place of residence on January 1, you may apply for a Homeowners' Exemption. This exemption will reduce your annual tax bill by about \$70.
- If you build or acquire a home, and there was no exemption on the annual tax roll, you may apply for a Homeowners' Exemption on the supplemental tax roll. In order to qualify, you must occupy the home within 90 days of the completion of new construction or the change in ownership. You should also apply for this exemption within 30 days of receiving a Notice of Supplemental Assessment.
- You must immediately notify the Assessor's Office if a property becomes ineligible for a Homeowner's Exemption after it has been granted an exemption.
- Homeowners' Exemptions are not automatically transferred between properties. If you move, you must file an application for a new exemption.
- A property owner need only file a claim once, and the exemption will remain until there is a change in title. Changes in title may include transferring the property to a surviving spouse, child or into a family trust.

**(MORE)**

**On a request for a Disabled Veterans Exemption:**

- Veterans who are totally disabled (service related 100%), blind in both eyes, or has lost the use of more than one limb as a result of injury or disease during military service, may apply for a Disabled Veteran's Exemption. It is also available to unmarried surviving spouses of such a veteran.

**On a request for an Institutional Exemption:**

- Real and personal property used exclusively by a church, college, cemetery, museum, school, or library may qualify for an exemption from property taxation. Properties owned and used exclusively by a nonprofit religious, charitable, scientific, or hospital corporation may also be eligible.
- All Institutional Exemptions (Welfare Exemptions) filed prior to 1-1-2004 will be processed by both the State Board of Equalization and the local Assessors Offices. Beginning 1-1-2004, all organizations wishing to file a claim for exemption will be required to obtain an Organizational Clearance Certificate issued by the State Board of Equalization. That Certificate will then be provided to the local Assessors Offices and a determination of exemption status will be made on a property by property basis at the local level. All groups that currently have an active exemption will automatically receive an Organizational Clearance Certificate from the State Board of Equalization.

“I encourage all taxpayers to take advantage of these valuable money-saving tax exemptions,” stated Assessor Bill Postmus. “These exemptions are already provided by state law, and my office has made it easy to apply for them.” Postmus noted that his new and improved website ([www.sbassessor.org](http://www.sbassessor.org)) offers a list of Frequently Asked Questions on exemptions and links to all appropriate forms.

“My office can – and will – continue to make it as simple as possible for property owners and taxpayers to have access to information that may save them hundreds of dollars.”

To inquire whether a Homeowners Exemption has already been claimed or to answer additional questions regarding other property tax exemptions that are not addressed on the official county assessor website, taxpayers may call the office’s toll-free number at (877) 855-7654 to speak with a property tax exemption specialist.

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